

ARTICLE 18



Article 18: Authority to Lease

Shall the Town vote, *pursuant to the authority of RSA 41:11*, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a lease or license, on such terms and conditions as they deem fit, and for such length of time as they deem appropriate, such portion of town owned property at the Amherst Public Safety Center, (said property more specifically known as *Tax Map 6, Lot 94*), as said Board of Selectmen deem necessary for the limited purpose of construction of a telecommunications tower, which will also provide antenna space for Amherst Emergency Services and further provide enhanced and more reliable communication to the aforementioned services. This is a special warrant article and is intended to be non-lapsing.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously supports this Article.)

This article has no tax impact.

The Town has been involved in negotiations for a lease on town owned land at the public safety center on Amherst Street with cellular companies to construct a cell tower. Should these negotiations be fruitful, the Board of Selectmen needs the authority contained in this article to execute a lease. A very similar article passed at the last Town Meeting, however it did not contain a non-lapsing clause that would allow the negotiations to continue beyond this year. The complexity of these type of negotiations makes it unlikely they could be successfully concluded in one year, so a "renewal" of the authority granted last year is being sought. Any proposal for a lease would include locating the required public safety antennas on the proposed cellular tower. This would allow for the removal of the existing tower next to the police station. This tower is near the end of its life span, and will require replacement at town cost if this proposal does not succeed. Any new tower proposal would still need to comply with all town regulations, and be approved by the Historic District Commission and Planning Board.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00 (none) Per Thousand

ARTICLE 19



Article 19: Discontinue Jones Road section

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 231:43, (I), vote to discontinue vehicle traffic on that portion of Jones Road between Mack Hill Road and the northeast corner of Map/Lot 19-17-0 keeping a sidewalk on the westerly edge with the balance being added to the existing town common land .

(The Board of Selectmen recommends (4-1) a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously does not support this Article.)

The proposal to eliminate this small section of road was first advanced by a resident in the vicinity. The issue was reviewed by the Highway Safety Committee who decided the proposal would be a safety improvement. It is felt the present configuration allows drivers on the cutoff to lose focus on potential hazards on Mack Hill as they prepare to yield to traffic on their left. Because of the many walkers in this area, it increases the risk of a pedestrian/vehicle conflict as vehicles travel on this cutoff section of Jones Road.

For these reasons, it is recommended to reduce the cutoff road to a sidewalk and add additional green space. The asphalt would be removed and returned to the DPW facility for reuse and replaced with composted loam from the Transfer Station and seeded. The proposed change would increase green space in the area, and provide minimal savings in maintenance costs for the DPW.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00 (none) Per Thousand